

A new species of *Peritropis* Uhler from Malaŵi (Heteroptera: Miridae: Cylapinae)

by

Jacek Gorczyca

(Department of Zoology, Silesian University, Bankowa 9, 40-007 Katowice, Poland;
e-mail: gorczyca@us.edu.pl)

ABSTRACT

A new species of Miridae (Cylapinae), *Peritropis obscurella*, is described from Malawi. Figures of the parameres, aedeagus and metatarsi are provided.

INTRODUCTION

The total of 27 described species of *Peritropis* Uhler (Schuh 1995; Gorczyca & Eyles 1997; Gorczyca 1997), includes only four from Africa. Two of them, *Peritropis africana* and *Peritropis crassicornis*, were described by Poppius (1912), based on single specimens collected in East Africa. The next report of the genus from Africa was given by Carvalho et al. (1960), who also recorded *Peritropis africana* Popp from Namibia. Schmitz (1970) established the species *Peritropis armiliarius* from West Africa, and later *Peritropis maculicornis* was described from Yemen (Linnavuori & Al-Safadi 1993). Recently, the new species *Peritropis smreczynskii* was described (Gorczyca 1997), based on a specimen collected in Tanzania.

Amongst the material I borrowed from the Natal Museum, there were two males which represented a new species of *Peritropis*. The description of the new species is given below.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The holotype and paratype of the new species are deposited in the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg (NMSA). Terminology follows Schuh & Slater (1995). Holotype data are quoted exactly as they appear; a slash (/) denotes the end of a line of print and a semicolon separates data quoted on different labels.

The pygophore was removed and cleared in warm, approximately 10 % KOH; the aedeagus was separated and put into distilled water, then transferred and examined in glycerine. Illustrations were made using a Carl Zeiss stereo-microscope, and a drawing tube.

TAXONOMY

Peritropis obscurella sp. n.

Type material: Holotype (male): Malawi, SE1334DC \ Senga Bay, 20 km NE of \ Salima 7–8, iii. 1987 \ J & A Londt, Woodland \ on hill behind hotel [type-written]; HOLOTYPE, *Peritropis* \ *obscurella* [red, type-written label]. Hemelytra and one hind leg are glued on a separate label. Paratype (male): same data as holotype. Both in the Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

Diagnosis: The new species is similar in size to *Peritropis armillarius* Schmitz and *Peritropis maculicornis* Linnavuori & Al-Safadi, but differs from them in darker coloration, the posterior margin of pronotum having an incision, the second antennal segment being dark and unicolourous, and the tibiae unicolourous.

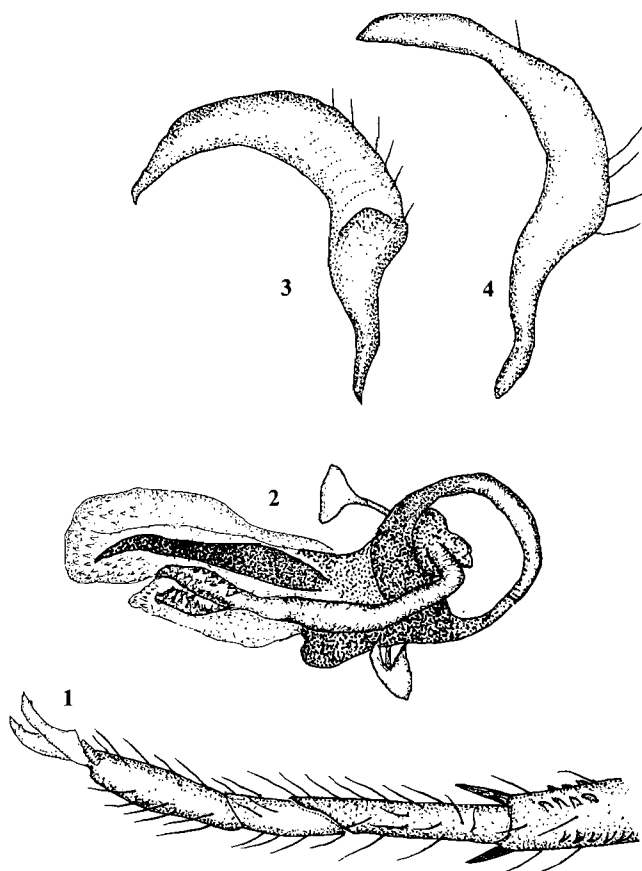
Description:

Male (Dimensions in mm): Body elongate-oval, dark brown mottled with small pale spots and patches, length of body 3.5, width 1.35.

Head: Dark brown with paler patches, tinged with red beyond eyes, covered with fine, pale setae. Vertex with a longitudinal sulcus in the middle, frons, clypeus, mandibular plate and maxillary plate brown with paler places, slightly tinged with red. Apex of clypeus pale, tinged with orange. Length of head 0.6, seen from above, from sides 0.65, width 0.7, diameter of eye 0.23. Eyes contiguous with anterior margin of pronotum. Antennae inserted on tubercles removed from margins of eyes. First antennal segment very thin at base then rapidly thickened towards apex; pale at base, then with a dark ring and again pale brown to orange, tinged with red, covered with short, pale setae and bearing 2, long, pale, protruding setae. Second antennal segment brown, covered with dense, short, pale, adpressed setae and bearing also a few long, pale, protruding setae. Third and fourth segments pale, covered with long, pale, protruding setae, longer than diameter of segments. Length of antennal segments: 0.4: 0.9: 0.36 (fourth segment broken). Rostrum long, almost reaching pygophore, first segment dark brown, pale at apex, remaining segments pale brown.

Pronotum: Pronotal collar invisible, pronotum mottled with small pale spots and patches, and covered with fine, pale setae. Lateral margins and humeral angles elevated; anterior lobe of pronotum with distinctly raised calli, posterior lobe with a rectangular depression in the middle, beyond callar area. Humeral angles pale, tinged with orange, posterior margin of pronotum with broad incision. Length of pronotum 0.52, length of lateral margins 0.65, posterior margin 1.1. Mesoscutum well exposed, dark brown with small paler patches, with oblique carina on sides; scutellum very dark, almost black, with group of small, paler patches in the middle, apex of scutellum pale. Mesoscutum and scutellum covered with short, fine, pale setae.

Hemelytra: Brown, covered with fine, shining setae, spotted with small pale dots and patches. Apex of clavus, embolium and cuneus pale, clavus with a rib-like claval vein. External part of cuneus dark brown, inner part pale with small reddish patches. Corium with dark brown patch above cuneus, contiguous with membrane. Membrane grey with a few small, translucent spots, bicellulated, venation indistinct, major cell with a small stub.



Figs 1–4. *Peritropis obscurella* sp. n. 1. Metatarsi. 2. Aedeagus. 3. Left paramere. 4. Right paramere.

Underside of body: Dark brown, legs covered with pale setae, forecoxae brown, paler at base, meso- and metacoxae pale with a brown patch at base; forefemora chestnut, paler at apex; meso- and metafemora pale at base, then chestnut and pale again at apex with a brown or orange ring. Meso- and metafemora bearing a few long trichobothria distally. Tibiae pale brown, slightly paler and tinged with red at base, covered with rows of short setae, metatibiae additionally with rows of short, thick, spines. Tarsi pale brown, covered with long setae, second segment divided; claws slender with a small subapical tooth (Fig. 1).

Genitalia: Parameres slender, sparingly covered with setae (Figs 2–3), aedeagus membranous with sclerotised spicula (Fig. 4).

Female: Unknown.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. David A. Barraclough and Miss Shayleen James (Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg) for the loan of specimens.

REFERENCES

- CARVALHO, J. C. M., DUTRA, J. A. P. & BECKER, J. 1960. Hemiptera, Heteroptera: Miridae. In: *South African Animal Life*. Vol. 7. Stockholm: Swedish National Research Council pp.467–477.
- GORCZYCA, J. 1997. A new species of *Peritropis* from Tanzania (Heteroptera, Miridae, Cylapinae). *Polskie Pismo Entomologiczne* 66: 185–187.
- GORCZYCA, J. & EYLES, A. C. 1997. A new species of *Peritropis* Uhler, the first record of Cylapinae (Hemiptera: Miridae) from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Zoology* 24: 225–230.
- LINNAVUORI, R. & AL-SAFADI, M. M. 1993. New species of Miridae (Hemiptera, Heteroptera) from Yemen. *Entomologica Fennica* 4: 179–193.
- POPPIUS, B. 1912. Die Miriden der Athiopischen Region I Mirina, Cylapina, Bryocorina. *Acta Societatis Scientiarum Fennicae* 41 (3): 1–203.
- SCHMITZ, G. 1970. Contribution a la faune du Congo (Brazzaville). Mission A. Villiers et A. Discarpeniters. XCVIII. Hemipteres Miridae et Isometopidae (1re partie). *Bulletin de L'Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire* 32A: 501–530.
- SCHUH, R. T. 1995. *Plant bugs of the world (Insecta: Heteroptera: Miridae)*. New York Entomological Society.
- SCHUH, R. T. & SLATER, J. A. 1995. *True bugs of the world (Hemiptera, Heteroptera), classification and natural history*. New York: Cornell University Press.